(b) The Centre would assist in transfer of technology from B &D institutions to the entrepreneurs organise entreprenurial development programmes, provide linkages between entrepreneurs and other agencies including financial institutions, interact amongst R&D institutions, manufacturing firms and end user industries to create awareness regarding diversified jute goods, conduct market surveys, publicity and promotional campaigns in the leading consumer centres.

(c) Some of the activities of the Centre will commence in 1991–92.

L.I.C. Mutual Fund Scheme for Women Investors

4924. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the L.I.C. mutual fund has launched any scheme for women investors, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The 'Dhanalakshmi' Scheme of the LIC Mutual Fund envisages sale of Units at a face value of Rs. 10 each to female resident citizens of India. Male residents are allowed to apply as second and/or third applicants only. Minor female citizens can, however, apply through their parents/step–parents/guardians. The scheme envisages two options for payment of dividend– Flexible Dividend Plan (Option 1) where the dividend declared after the end of each accounting year is payable in single instalment or in 2 or 3 or 4 equal instalment, along with specified interest, and the Dividend Accumulation Plan (Option 2) where the dividend declared will get automatically reinvested in the scheme and additional Units will be allowed against the same on the selling price prevailing at that time.

Opening of Branches by RRBS in Jamnagar and Bhavnagar Districts of Gujarat

4925. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines laid for opening the branches of Regional Rural Banks;

(b) the names of places in Jamnagar and Bhavnagar district of Gujarat where branches of RRBs were opened during the last three years and in 1991; and till 31 October; and

(c) the names of places in these districts where branches of RRBs are proposed to be opened during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (c). Under the extant policy of Reserve Baank of India (RBI) applications from Regional Rural Banks (RRB s) for new branches in their areas of operations will be considered by RBI on merits of each case, specially looking into the viability of such branches, the Service Area Approach to rural lending, and the existing number of branches of the RRB.

For opening of branches in rural areas the list of identified centres with necessary particulars in each District has to be given to the lead bank of that District. The lead bank after consolidating lists received from all banks submits it to the District Collector for recommendation and onward transmission to RBI through the State Government concerned. Therefore, under the Branch Licensing Policy (1990–95) opening of branches of public sector banks including RRBs is a continuous process and it is no possible to project the number of branches

of RRBs that are proposed to be opened during the next three years in Jamnagar and Bhavnagar Districts of Gujarat.

(b) In respect of Jamnagar District no allotments were made by RBI during the last three years for opening branches to RRBs. In Bhavnagar District, Surendra Nagar Bhavnagar Gramin Bank has opened 8 branches during the last three years upto 31st October, 1991 as per details given below:

Sl.No.	*Centre*
1.	Bajud
2.	Bodananes
3.	Hajipar
4.	Mandavi
5.	Mota Sarana
6.	Sarva
7.	Tajpur
8.	Tatam

Acceptance of Soiled Currency Notes by Nationalised Banks

4926. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has asked the nationalised banks to accept soiled currency notes from the public; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have authorised all branches of public sector banks to provide facilities of exchanging soiled and certain categories of mutilated notes to the members of the public. RBI have also delegated full powers under the Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) Rules, 1975 to the branches of public sector banks maintaining currency chests to adjudicate claims on defective notes. Besides, the Reserve Bank have also been extending facilities to the public for exchanging soiled and Mutilated notes at all its Issue Offices.

[*Translation*]

Private Insurance and Banking Companies

4927. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the private companies which have been allowed by the Government or the Reserve Bank of India to carry on Life Insurance, General Insurance and banking business upto November. 30 1991.

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints in regard to the working of these companies; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Government have not allowed any private company to carry on Life Insurance or General Insurance business. The details of companies which have been granted licences by RBI for carrying in banking business are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.